

# MESSAGE FROM SIM

As 2009 draws to a close, I suspect that many of you share my hope that, from an economic perspective, the worst may be behind us. This last 18 months has to have been one of the toughest periods for our countries, our companies, our professions, our families and ourselves that many of us in IT leadership positions can remember.

In such tough times, it is easy to fall back on platitudes and clichés to exhort our staff, and ourselves to greater effort; “When life gives you lemons...”, “every problem is an opportunity...” or other quotes from “Chicken Soup For The CIO Soul.”

However, the stark truth is that the current economic situation has required extremely hard work by a lot of smart people who are looking for any edge or opportunity to not only reduce costs but also improve their business or organization for the long haul. In such times it is too easy to become introverted and overly focused on internal activities, not believing that there is anything to be learned by lifting up our eyes and taking a moment to look around and learn from others.

The successful CIO is acutely aware that learning from others’ successes, failures and ways of thinking, is an absolute necessity, particularly in times such as these, if we and our organizations are to thrive.

The alliance that SIM has with *MISQE* is an outstanding example of how we, as SIM members, can easily connect with a wide range of leading IT thinkers and shamelessly steal those ideas to implement short-term benefits and ensure that we are able to build the long term-capabilities that our organizations will need to as we emerge from recession. We can learn from each other in-person in local SIM chapter events, our annual SIMposium, as well as in our SIM Advanced Practices Council (APC) program in which leading academics design research and share cross-industry findings that are directly relevant for CIOs. *MISQE* provides us with a different medium for sharing leadership insights captured from these types of SIM-sponsored forums, as well as from field studies conducted by IS researchers across the globe.

For example, this Dec. 2009 *MISQE* issue focuses on IT Workforce challenges for both today’s recessionary times, as well as for the long term. At this year’s SIMposium in Seattle, people issues were highlighted in several of the keynote presentations. These *MISQE*

articles supplement the ideas shared at SIMposium by providing guidelines and lessons learned for people management based on insights captured not only from U.S.-based IT leaders, but also from EU-based IT leaders and Asia-based IT outsourcing partners.

If you are not familiar with the Society for Information Management (SIM), you can learn about the organization at [www.simnet.org](http://www.simnet.org).

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